I.T.U. Meeting

237. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agenda items discussed at the International Telecom Union (ITU) meeting held in Morocco;

(b) the details of the Indian delegation who had participated in the meet;

(c) the nature of gains earned out of the deliberations; and

(d) what is Government's policy on the issue of Village Public Telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The Agenda for the Plenipotentiary Conference was as per the ITU Constitution. The details are at Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The list of the members of Indian delegation is placed at Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) (i) India was again re-elected to the Council of ITU which governs ITU between two Plenipotentiary Conferences.

(ii) Shri R. N. Agarwal of India was re-elected as the member of Radio Regulations Board of ITU.

(iii) The inter-governmental character of ITU has been maintained.

(iv) India has taken a leading role in projecting the problem of digital divide, including the gender aspects, for taking effective steps by ITU.

(d) The relevant objectives of New Telecom Policy, 1999 is to achieve telecom coverage of all villages in the country and provide reliable media to all exchanges by the year 2002.

Statement-I

The Agenda for the Plenipotentiary Conference was as per the ITU Constitution and the Agenda items

(a) determine the general policies for fulfilling the purposes of the Union prescribed in the Constitution.

(b) consider the reports by the Council on the activities of the Union since the previous Plenipotentiary Conference and on the strategic policy and planning of the Union.

(c) establish the basis for the budget of the Union and determine related financial limits until the next plenipotentiary conference, after considering all relevant aspects of the work of the Union in that period.

(d) establish, using the procedures described in No. 161D to 161G of this Constitution, the total number of contributory units for period up to the next plenipotentiary conference on the basis of the classes of contribution announced by Member States;

(e) provide any general directives dealing with the staffing of the Union and, if necessary, fix the basic salaries, the salary scales and the system of allowances and pensions for all the officials of the Union.

(f) examine the accounts of the Union and finally approve them, if appropriate.

(g) elect the Member States which are to serve on the Council.

(h) elect the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux of the Sectors as elected officials of the Union;

(i) elect the members of the Radio Regulations Board;

(j) consider and adopt, if appropriate, proposals for amendments to this Constitution and the Convention, put forward by Member States, in accordance with the provisions of Article 55 of this Constitution and the relevant provisions of the Convention, respectively;

(k) conclude or revise, if necessary, agreements between the Union and other international organizations, examine any provisional agreements with such organizations concluded by the Council on behalf of the Union, and take such measures in connection therewith as it deems appropriate;

(l) adopt and amend the Rules of Procedure of Conferences and other meetings of the Union.

(m) deal with such other telecommunication questions as may be necessary including the work related to World Summit on Information Society.

Statement-II

Indian delegation for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, 2002 held at Morocco

1. Smt. Sumitra Mahajan	MOS (C & IT)
2. Shri D.K. Bhalla	P.S. to MOS (C & IT)
3. Shri Vinod Vaish	Secretary (Telecom) & Chairman,Telecom Commission
4. Shri N. Parthasarathy	Member (Finance), Telecom Commission
5. Shri D.P.S. Seth	Member (Services), Telecom Commission
6. Shri P.K. Garg	Wireless Adviser
7. Shri Biswapati Chaudhuri	Joint Wireless Adviser
8. Shri N.K. Mangla	Sr. DDG(TEC), Department of Telecom
9. Shri A. C. Padhi	DDG (TIF), Department of Telecom
10. Shri M.K. Jain	DDG (IR), Department of Telecom
11. Shri Shabbir Ahmed	Director (HRD), BSNL Board
12. Shri Narender Sharma	CMD, MTNL
13. Shri R.N. Agarwal	Former Wireless Adviser and Indian candidate for Radio Regulation Board

14.	Shri G.N. Shashidharan	DDG (Signals), Ministry of Defence
15.	Shri R. Rajagopalan	Ambassador of India to Morocco
16.	Shri N.J. Gangte	First Secretary, Embassy of India, Morocco
17.	Shri R. Kumar	Counsellor, PMI, Geneva

Operation of illegal telephone exchanges

238. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal telephone exchanges had been found operating clandestinely in the capital; if so, the details thereof;

(b) what was the modus operandi thereof;

(c) the approximate loss caused to the exchequer since their inception; and

(d) the action taken against the accused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The year-wise number of cases are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The modus operandi for operating such illegal exchanges in Statement- II (*See* below).

(c) The estimated loss to Department of Telecom/VSNL, other International Long Distance operators as well as MTNL is given in Statement - III (*See* Below).

(d) Legal proceedings have been initiated against the accused by Delhi Police/CBI.